



# Employee News

Governor M. Jodi Rell

Commissioner Peter H. O'Meara

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## EAP

Employee Assistance Program

**1-800-526-3485**

**24 / 7 Assistance**

**[www.solutions-eap.com](http://www.solutions-eap.com)**

The department continues to enhance systems and programs that directly affect our consumers and their families. Each of our regions is in the process of developing Regional Quality Councils, with the goal of family and consumer participation.

The department recognizes the value and importance of working collaboratively with all of our partners and continues to seek feedback in order to enhance our services. These Regional Councils will play an important role for families to have influence in our quality system.

## DMR

**[www.ct.gov/dmr](http://www.ct.gov/dmr)**

### Central Office

(860) 418-6000

### North Region

(860) 263-2500

### West Region

(203) 805-7400

### South Region

(203) 294-5049

### STS

(203) 586-2000

As you work through each day, keep in mind families and consumers who would be willing to serve on these councils. Please have them contact the following Regional Quality Directors; West Region, Ken Cabral 203-805-7445; South Region, Jadwiga Gocłowski 203-294-5048; North Region, Andre McDade 860-263-2460.

As we continually search for ways to enhance our quality systems, we must also continue to be diligent in the processes already in place. Our commitment is to provide quality services throughout our programs and more importantly to protect those we have the responsibility to serve.

*Commissioner Peter H. O'Meara*

## New Vans and Buses are Rolling In!

### "Ask the Commissioner"

If you have a question for Commissioner O'Meara, you are invited to e-mail Joan Barnish at [joan.barnish@po.state.ct.us](mailto:joan.barnish@po.state.ct.us). Watch for your response in future newsletter editions.

Newsworthy articles should be forwarded to your regional **DMR Employee News** contacts:

North/Linda Schaefer

West/Eunice Rivera

South/Jolie Cresimano-Goss



*Pictured (left to right); Scott Keeler, MRW-1, Southbury Training School transportation department; Mike Gosselin, Department of Administrative Services Fleet Garage Supervisor; Carol Biernacki, Department of Administrative Services Vehicle Control Supervisor; and Edwin Alvarez, Skilled Maintainer in transportation at Southbury Training School.*

The new fleet of consumer transportation vehicles has begun to roll in! The first of the new vehicles arrived last week and vans and buses continue to arrive weekly. The current fleet of aging, high mileage Department of Mental Retardation transportation vehicles will be replaced over the next several months. A total of 53 vans and buses have been ordered in a partnership between the DMR and Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Fleet Services.

The new buses will accommodate up to 16 ambulatory passengers  
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## Lifespan Coordinator Appointed

DMR is happy to announce that Tammy Garris has assumed the position of Lifespan Coordinator in Central Office (CO). Tammy is responsible for coordinating services for children and elders served by the Department. In this role, she will facilitate opportunities for children and elders with mental retardation to access a full range of community-based supports and services. Specific activities will include directing policy and procedure development and formulating program goals and objective related to children and elders services, supporting youth transition from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to DMR, and coordinating department efforts to support the health, safety and future support needs of elder persons with mental retardation. Tammy will act as the CO liaison with regional staff, state agencies, providers, and advocacy groups that serve children and elders.

Tammy has extensive experience managing services for children with disabilities and has provided supports to adults and elders with mental retardation. She held the post of North Region Birth to Three Manager for the past four years prior to assuming this new position. To reach Tammy, call (860) 418-6107 or email her at [tammy.garris@po.state.ct.us](mailto:tammy.garris@po.state.ct.us).

## New Vans and Buses

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and one passenger who utilizes a wheelchair, while the vans will hold two to three individuals in wheelchairs and four to six ambulatory passengers. Some of the older vehicles will be refurbished for use as “loaners”, so that transportation is not affected by maintenance or service needs.

The vans and buses provide transportation for consumers who live in DMR public residential facilities.

Special thanks to DMR’s Ombudsperson Edward Mambruno and Lori French Hall, Fiscal Manager/Special Projects for their efforts in the van project.



*The first of the fleet of 53 new consumer transportation vans and buses has arrived and been received by DMR staff.*

## There’s still time to join Team Connecticut for Best Buddies Cycle Challenge!

DMR Commissioner Peter H. O’Meara will be joined by employees, consumer family members and citizens for the Volvo Best Buddies Challenge in Hyannisport, MA on May 20. There is still time to register to cycle and participate in a weekend of celebration and fun alongside Honorary Chair Tedy Bruschi of the New England Patriots, other celebrities and people with intellectual disabilities. The event begins at the JFK Library in Boston and ends with a concert and lobster clambake at the Kennedy Compound in Hyannisport. This is the fourth year that Commissioner O’Meara has led Team Connecticut for this exciting event. To register, call Best Buddies Program Supervisor Sarah Carrol at (203) 773-9233. Half of the funds raised by Team Connecticut will stay in Connecticut. Don’t miss out, join TEAM CT today!